



Budget-Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2019

7:00pm

Broadcast Studio
423 Webbs Mills Road

Resolution: We, the Raymond Board of Selectmen, recognize our individual and collective responsibilities as leaders and representatives of our community. To this end, we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner befitting these roles and duties. We pledge and encourage others to "Be the Influence" and to recognize that decisions matter.

Committee Members Present: Robert Gosselin, Sheila Bourque, Crystal Rogers, Kevin Oliver, Dana DesJardins, Joe Bruno, Karen Lockwood

Committee Members Absent: none

Town Staff Present:

Don Willard – Town Manager
Cathy Ricker – Finance Director
Sue Look – Town Clerk

1) **Called Meeting to order** at 7:00pm by Robert Gosselin

2) **Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for Upcoming Budget Cycle**

Nomination for Robert Gosselin as Chair by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr DesJardins. **Motion** for nominations to cease by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Mr DesJardins.
Unanimously approved

Nomination for Kevin Oliver as Vice-Chair by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr DesJardins. **Motion** for nominations to cease by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Mr DesJardins.
Unanimously approved

3) **Discuss and Select Times and Day of Week to Meet (Tuesday at 6:30pm in the past)**

Consensus to stay with Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

4) **Discuss Member's Desire to Participate Remotely**

There was a good deal of discussion:

- If it is in your bylaws, according to Robert's Rules you can do it, if not, then you can not. The Budget-Finance Committee Ordinance is silent on this issue.

- The Select Board decided to remove this option from their policy.
- Maine's Right to Know Advisory Committee and MMA, who backed the bill to the Maine Legislature to allow electronic participation (which was tabled in committee, in effect killing it for that session), are not optimistic that this will happen this session, but are hopeful that the next session may be more successful.
- Forms of this have been introduced to the Maine Legislature for many years.
- If a member lost connection and they made up a quorum, the meeting would be ended.
- Some State Task Forces allow remote participation and it was said to work well. The State does not allow it on governing boards.
- There have been difficulty getting people to run for open seats.
- There is not a reference to Robert's Rules in the Budget-Finance Committee bylaws.
- It is hard to have a good conversation remotely.
- There are rules that if someone misses 3 meetings they can be removed if someone challenges it.
- There is only 1 voting session in the budget cycle for the Budget-Finance Committee.
- Some members recommended that this not be enacted and that it is important to have the face-to-face.

Motion to allow remote participation for this budget season with the following conditions:

1. It would need to be authorized via Town Meeting
2. No vote allowed by those remotely coming out of executive session
3. A quorum would need to be physically present at the meeting
4. All members must be physically present at 1 meeting per year
5. Towns can have stricter limitation or prohibit altogether

by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr DesJardins.

There was further discussion along the same lines as above.

Vote 3-4 Motion failed

5) Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 30, 2019

Motion to approve the April 30, 2019 meeting minutes as presented by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr DesJardins.

Voted 5-0-2 Motion passed

6) Review of October 8, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant Budget Article

ARTICLE 2: *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate monies not to exceed \$78,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance (surplus) to replace the leased Central Maine Power streetlights with high efficiency Light Emitting Diode (LED) Town-owned streetlights.*

The Select Board recommends Article 2

There was some discussion that the committee members did not get the details pertaining to this project which were sent to the Chairman. Town Manager Willard explained the project and the benefits to the Town (details to be found in the Select Board's ePacket for the August 13, 2019 meeting).

There was further discussion that this should not be in a Special Town Meeting because it is not an emergency and we have an election in November. We have been working on this for 2 years

and to be a part of the group to get the best discounts we need to act now. If approved in October, the lights will be installed in January 2020. There was also questions pertaining to using surplus money for this and not to reduce the taxes.

Motion to recommend Warrant Article 2 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant as presented by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Voted 6-1. Motion passed

Town Manager Willard – What we have done in the past is send everything to the Chair and the Chair would send to the members.

Chair Gosselin – I must have missed it. I will send out attachments from here on.

7) **Committee Comments** – none

8) **Public Comments** – none

9) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:49pm by Mr DesJardins. Seconded by Ms Bourque.
Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L Look, Town Clerk